The Foundation

of the

Sisters Adorers

of the

Precious Blood

in the

Diocese of London, Ontario

Imprimatur :

† MICHAEL FRANCIS FALLON,

Bishop of London

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ON May 1st, 1913, the Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood, in response to the invitation of the Right Reverend M. F. Fallon, D.D., established a branch of their Community in the Diocese of London, Ont.

In the year 1861, in the City of St. Hyacinthe, the Foundress of this Institute, Mother Catharine Aurelia of the Precious Blood and three devoted companions offered themselves to the Church as the first members of an Order of Reparation, engaging themselves to spend their lives in glorifying the Precious Blood.

Encouraged, guided and supported by the venerated and beloved Founder, the late Right Reverend Joseph LaRocque, Bishop of St. Hyacinthe, the little community increased in numbers until the quaint home of the Foundress' father became insufficent and a more monastic abode was found for these chosen daughters of the Cross. The Holy Founder, Bishop LaRocque, gave his heart and soul to the work undertaken, knowing that the realization of its special end would make this Community dear to the heart of our Mother, the Church, to whom, with God's grace, it would always be a source of consolation, for it is pre-eminently to the Contemplative Orders that Holy Church turns as a Mother to her eldest daughter in all her hours of distress and anxiety.

The object of this Institute is two-fold—the glorification of the Redeeming Blood and Salvation of Souls. It was whilst kneeling in spirit on Calvary's Mount, meditating on the Crucifixion of a loving Savior, that those words of our Lord, "I thirst," sank deeply into the heart of the Foundress, and the desire of her life became the echo of that cry. It is the thirst of a God for the souls he has created; the thirst of the Heart of Jesus for the hearts of men; and it is to satiate this thirst, as far as lies in their power, that the Religious Adorers of the Precious Blood are gathered together under the shadow of the Cross.

Adoration—reparation—suffering; to this they give their lives. The worship of the Precious Blood is, therefore, an essential duty to them, and hence the Sisters maintain a perpetual adoration of the Divine Blood present in the Blessed Sacrament. By a special privilege granted them by His Holiness Leo XIII. of happy memory the Forty Hours' Devotion takes place four times a year in their Monasteries and the first Sunday of every month the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for their adoration and reparation all day and night. During these Devotions our Eucharistic King is constantly surrounded by the Sisters, who replace each other every hour. Joined to their constant homage of adoration is that of loving reparation, and surely the indifference of many in regard to God and their eternal salvation is calculated to excite sentiments of reparatory love in the hearts of all Christians. It is the duty of a Sister of the Precious Blood to strive to make reparation before God for the sins daily committed throughout the world, but in a special manner for the sins committed in the Diocese in which their community is established. With this intention the Sisters rise at midnight to spend an hour in prayer, during which the Divine Office is recited and acts of

atonement offered. Besides this, their rule has been formed on the Divine Model of reparation, Jesus Crucified, and it is in this same spirit that the manual labor, which is shared by all, is performed.

Although the Sisters hold little converse with the world they, nevertheless, communicate with it by means of the spiritual union existing between them and the earnest, faithful souls who are devoted to the Precious Blood and those likewise who need the application of Its infinite merits to purify, to sanctify and to save. Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament, is our King; hence a court should wait upon His Earthly Throne and His Sacred Heart, which is the reservoir of the Precious Blood, should become the centre of loving hearts offering with Jesus, through Jesus, in Jesus, their tribute of adoration, reparation, thanksgiving and prayer.

Those who unite in spirit in the daily exercises of the Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood, or commend themselves to their prayers, share in all their devotions, and seven lamps, in honor of the seven sheddings of the Precious Blood, are kept burning before the Blessed Sacrament for their intentions.

In extending our earnest invitation to all our friends and benefactors to unite with us in adoring the Blood of Jesus, and offering reparations for the outrages committed against It throughtout the world, we are not inviting them to any new devotion, since the "Devotion of the Precious Blood" exists from the beginning of ages, and, as it was the first imparted to fallen man, we must thence infer that it ought to be a devotion wide-spread as is the world. By the Blood of Jesus we have all been redeemed; to It we owe our salvation and if, hereafter, an everlasting crown rest upon our brow, it will be the purchase of this Divine

Blood. Since, therefore, our salvation is the fruit of that Divine Blood; since we are indebted to It for Heaven with its unfading joys, is it not just that each and all should be devoted to the Blood of Jesus and render It special daily worship and homage? Guards of Honor of the Sacred Heart! be faithful to your post. Learn to love ever more and more that Heart which hath so loved us, but forget not that the proof of the Love of the Sacred Heart for us was the outpouring of all Its Blood. Do not be simply content to adore the Living Chalice of the Precious Blood, stopping short of its interior; enter therein and adore the Blood which It contains, for this Blood is the treasure of the Heart of Jesus.

Compassionate souls! who, in the Five Wounds of our dear Redeemer, find the object of your worship, Jesus has for you a special invitation to take part in the adoration of His Blood since He suffered His Wounds only that through them the crimson tide of the Precious Blood would flow upon the world in graces of mercy, sanctification and salvation. Friends of the Holy face! you who incessantly cry out: "Look, O Lord, upon the Face of Thy Christ," Christ Himself would bid you not staunch—in a sense—the Blood which furrows that Divine Face but, rather, adore It in Its flow and present It to God the Father in reparation of the outrages which still fall upon that Majestic Face from the lips of sinners.

Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament! need we remind you that the Divine Blood lives in the Sacred Host and that, but for this Blood, the Host would be lifeless, even as Jesus was in the Sepulchre? And you who, by Mary, go to Jesus and who glory in being her children, if you would have this Mother love you with a love of predilection and draw you ever closer to herself, be also lovers of the Blood of her Divine Son. That Blood was drawn from her

veins and it was by virtue of that Blood which she was to impart to the Victim of Reparation that she was preserved from the stain of original sin. In the crown of roses that you daily unwreath at her feet in the recitation of the Rosary, remember the Precious Blood. In the Joyful Mysteries, the Precious Blood is coursing in the veins of Jesus; in the Sorrowful Mysteries, the Precious Blood accomplishes the work of Redemption and, in the Glorious Mysteries, the Precious Blood participates in the triumph of the Conqueror of Death, and it is by means of It that Mary has her share in the triumph. Nothing hinders you, therefore, whilst repeating your "Ave Maria," from uniting in the Adoration of the Precious Blood. All ye Elect of the Lord! Future inhabitants of the City of God! Show yourselves worthy of the blessed state which awaits you by the practice, here below, of that hymn which you are to sing throughout eternity in Heaven: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive Power, and Divinity, and Wisdom, and Strength, and Honor, and Glory, and Benediction." Let us unite our voices to those "ten thousand times ten thousand of the blessed spirits" whom the beloved disciple saw "surrounding the throne of the Lamb," and, during our earthly sojourn, strive to show ourselves grateful for those gifts through which we may obtain to celebrate His praise in the Kingdom of Heaven.

May the Benediction of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ descend upon all our friends and benefactors, and abide with them for ever!

THE SISTERS ADORERS OF THE
PRECIOUS BLOOD
667 Talbot Street
London, Ont., Canada.

From SISTER MARY GERARDA